

THIRD SURVEY OF HOSPITALS.

The third survey of hospitals being made under the auspices of the American Medical Association is now well under way. Through an extensive correspondence and a third questionnaire the Association has collected a mass of information on the subject. Much of this material has been tabulated and forwarded to committees in each State representing the State medical associations. Most of the State committees have arranged definite lines of action and by inspection of the hospitals or by other methods are securing first-hand information by which the data collected by the Association is being carefully checked. The immediate end sought is to provide a reliable list of hospitals which are in position to furnish a satisfactory intern training. The investigation is not limited to intern hospitals, however, but will cover all institutions and the data obtained will be useful in any future action which may be taken in classifying hospitals. The work in California is in charge of a committee of which Dr. Herbert C. Moffitt, Dean of the University of California, is chairman, the other two members being Dr. Wm. Ophuls, Dean of the Stanford University Medical School and Dr. W. H. Kellogg, Sacramento. The work of the committee will be done through the section on Advancement of Medical Education and Science of the League for the Conservation of Public Health in California. This section, fortunately, is a permanent organization, and should prove an adequate means through which the work of the committee may be accomplished. The closer relationship which the hospital now bears to the public in the community which it serves makes it all the more important that the service rendered by it shall be excellent in character.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

How would you like to have a committee of two of your fellow physicians review the average clinical records you keep each day on your average patients? Try for a month keeping records which would pass muster for completeness and see how it reacts on the character of your professional work.

In Science recently,¹ Professor Millikan of the University of Chicago, makes an exhaustive study of the present obligation and status of science as a result of the war. Amongst other conclusions of suggestive interest, he states, "There can be no question that the better wage and the greater prosperity of the American workman is due primarily if not wholly to the fact that the American workman in every line of industry actually produces from two to five times as much per man-hour as does his European brother. . . . How unimaginable then the stupidity and how pathetic the blundering of that large class of labor leaders who are endeavoring to improve the conditions of labor by limiting production."

¹ September 26, 1919.

A committee of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania has canvassed twenty-five of the leading medical schools of the country to determine their attitude toward under-graduate research work. A careful review of the evidence obtained led to the following conclusions: 1. The vast majority of Class A schools approve of under-graduate research in theory. 2. Many medical schools approve of it in practice by conceding hours from the regular curriculum which can be spent in research. 3. The opportunity for under-graduate research has greatly increased since 1912. Stanford and the University of California medical schools are in the lead in promoting under-graduate research and are justified in the point of view and breadth of preparation thus supplied to their students.

As showing the extreme state of misinformation and ignorance which lurks where one would least expect it, read the following, from Commerce and Finance: "Unquestionably the physicians are in a bad way. A lot of them are not earning enough to live properly. Something should be done for them. It is doubtful if unionism is the prescription. There are too many doctors. The situation would be improved if a lot of them went to work. America needs more producers and fewer professional men. It could get along nicely with 50,000 fewer physicians." Isn't that remarkable? The money-changer sticks his head out of his counting house long enough to survey society and the medical profession, pass judgment on both, we surmise with equal accuracy, and retreat again to his absorbing problem of making two dollars grow where only one grew before. Just like that! Is it not refreshing to get such expert and judicial opinion, especially on a subject on which the speaker is so palpably misinformed and woefully out of touch with all but money-grubbing? Really he who wrote this choice bit, should read the editorial last month on "Are There Enough Doctors?". And then, how refreshing and restful to find that the doctor does not work! Some of us had suspected this blissful situation for some time but here we have irrefutable proof of it. And moreover, the doctor is not a "producer." What a load slips from our shoulders as we thus discover the real state of affairs.

"The practice of medicine does not consist so much in the administration of treatment by one method or another, but in diagnosing diseases and in giving advice. Sometimes the patient, when the disease is properly diagnosed, may require simply the fitting of glasses; sometimes he may require a surgical operation; sometimes he may require a special diet, or a change of climate, or a special form of exercise, or the use of electricity, or massage, or some special form of manipulation, or advice with reference to his habits, or the administration of drugs. The ability to treat diseases presupposes an understanding of and familiarity with the structures and functions of the human body in health and in disease, a knowledge of the signs and symptoms of disease, and a familiarity with the influences surrounding the individual that may have a bearing on his health. The most valuable single remedy or method of treating any disease is apt to do more harm than good in a large majority of cases, if applied indiscriminately by an individual who is ignorant of the fundamental scientific branches which all schools of medicine claim to teach before allowing a student to apply to any state for a license to treat sick patients as a business."—Dr. W. B. Russ, Texas State Jour. of Med.